

## **AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

Please cancel claims 1, 8, and 10-11 without prejudice, and amend Claims 2-7, 9 and 12 as shown below.

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

### **Listing of the claims:**

1 (Cancelled)

2 (Currently amended): A method ~~for~~ of enhancing the function of normal, ~~[[or]]~~ damaged, or injured excitable tissue in a mammal, comprising administering peripherally to a mammal in need thereof a ~~peripherally effective, non-toxic~~ [[,]] effective amount of recombinant erythropoietin for enhancing excitable tissue function, enhancing amount of recombinant EPO, wherein said enhancing the function of excitable tissue results in the enhancement of so that the associative learning or memory in/of the mammal is enhanced.

3 (Currently amended): A method ~~for~~ of enhancing the function of normal, ~~[[or]]~~ damaged, or injured excitable tissue in a mammal, comprising administering peripherally to a mammal in need thereof a peripherally effective, non-toxic [[,]] effective amount of recombinant erythropoietin for enhancing excitable tissue function, enhancing amount of recombinant EPO, wherein said enhancing the function of excitable tissue is used in the treatment of so that cognitive ~~dysfunction~~ function is enhanced.

4 (Currently amended): A method ~~for~~ of enhancing the function of normal, ~~[[or]]~~ damaged, or injured excitable tissue in a mammal, comprising administering peripherally to a mammal in need thereof a ~~peripherally effective, non-toxic~~ [[,]] effective amount of recombinant erythropoietin for enhancing excitable tissue function, wherein said excitable tissue is central nervous system tissue or peripheral nervous system tissue.

5 (Currently amended): A method ~~for~~ of enhancing the function of normal, ~~[[or]]~~ damaged, or injured excitable tissue in a mammal, comprising administering peripherally to a mammal in need thereof a ~~peripherally effective, non-toxic~~ [[,]] effective amount of recombinant erythropoietin for enhancing excitable tissue function, wherein said

administration comprises oral, topical, intraluminal or by inhalation or parenteral administration.

6 (Original): The method of Claim 5 wherein said parenteral administration is intravenous.

7 (Currently amended): A method ~~for~~ of enhancing the function of normal, ~~[[or]]~~ damaged, or injured excitable tissue in a mammal, comprising administering peripherally to a mammal in need thereof a ~~peripherally effective, non-toxic~~ effective amount of recombinant erythropoietin for enhancing excitable tissue function, wherein said administration is acute or chronic.

8 (Cancelled)

9 (Currently amended): A method ~~for~~ of enhancing the function of normal, ~~[[or]]~~ damaged, or injured excitable tissue in a mammal, comprising administering peripherally to a mammal in need thereof a ~~peripherally effective, non-toxic~~ effective amount of recombinant erythropoietin for enhancing excitable tissue function, wherein said EPO is administered at a dose greater than the dose necessary to maximally stimulate erythropoiesis.

10-11 (Cancelled)